

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07277 061947Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SSM-05 IO-14 INRE-00
NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W
-----128181 061955Z /46

O 061934Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6350
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 07277

DEPT FOR S/PRAND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE
HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S REMARKS
TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS MARCH 6 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT AT THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE IN GIZA,
CAIRO.

ATHERTON: GOOD EVENING. ONCE AGAIN I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO
PRESIDENT SADAT FOR RECEIVING ME; THIS TIME ON RATHER SHORT
NOTICE. I CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT SADAT THE LETTER THAT PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN HAS SENT IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT
SADAT'S LETTER. I ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION OF THIS MEETING
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07277 061947Z

AND MY MEETING EARLIER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO REPORT
TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON MY LATEST
TALKS IN ISRAEL AND ALSO ON MY TALKS DURING MY VISIT TO
JORDAN. THIS IS THE LAST LEG OF THIS PART OF MY MISSION. I
WILL BE GOING BACK TO WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS TO HELP
PREPARE FOR THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. I WOULD LIKE
TO ONLY COMMENT AT THIS POINT THAT I THINK IT HAS BEEN A VERY

USEFUL PERIOD, THIS LAST TWO WEEKS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE AND HOLDING THESE DISCUSSIONS. I THINK HAVE SUCCEEDED IN NARROWING SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES WITH RESPECT TO THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I THINK WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED THE FACT THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAS CONTINUITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE CONTINUITY. I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING TO THE AREA, AT SOME POINT AFTER PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT, TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

ATHERTON: WELL, I'VE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN NOT CHARACTERIZING THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECLARATION AND I THINK I WILL SIMPLY STAY WITH WHAT I SAID A FEW MINUTES AGO, THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES ON THE DECLARATION IN SOME RESPECTS.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS?

ATHERTON: WE DISCUSSED THIS IN A GENERAL WAY AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS IT. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO DESCRIBE EACH STEP OF THE WAY AS WE GO ALONG, BUT I WOULD EMPHASIZE AGAIN THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE PROCESS AND THE EXCHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THE DECLARATION ARE CONTINUING.
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 07277 061947Z

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

ATHERTON: WELL, I THINK IT WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, SO I REALLY, I THINK I WOULD JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT I WON'T COMMENT ON THAT SUBJECT.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE PRESIDENT SADAT'S REACTION TO THIS MEETING?

ATHERTON: TO? REACTION TO WHAT?

QUESTION: TO THE INFORMATION YOU BROUGHT HIM.

ATHERTON: HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT I WAS ABLE TO COME AND GIVE HIM THESE REPORTS AND HE HAS SAID THAT I WILL BE WELCOME ANY TIME I WANT TO RETURN AND CONTINUE MY MISSION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

ATHERTON: HE HAS ENCOURAGED ME TO CONTINUE MY
EFFORTS, YES. EILTS

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